

## **ABSTRACT**

A method of assessing tumor characteristics in tissue samples by determining the copy number or expression level of genes associated with lipid metabolism, synthesis, or action is provided. Gene copy number may be assessed directly from chromosomal material or by determining the expression level of the gene in a tissue sample. The use of physical platforms comprising immobilized nucleic acid polymers to determine copy number or expression level of lipid associated genes by hybridization techniques is also provided.